

Dear Friends,

Today—the third Sunday of Advent—is traditionally known as Gaudete Sunday, from the Latin verb for “rejoice.” We mark this Sunday by lighting a pink candle instead of a purple one on the Advent wreath. It is a reminder that the Advent season is a season of joy because our salvation is already at hand. The reason for our joy and gratitude as an “Advent people” is the fact that God has already called us to share in the very gift of eternal life for which we long. The concepts we hear most frequently in the liturgy at this half-way point of Advent are words like peace, love, gratitude, and joy.

The readings invite us to reflect on the source of this joy in the midst of all the struggles of our lives and the sufferings of our world. The opening line in the second reading from Paul’s letter to the Philippians is one source of this name: “Rejoice in the Lord always.” In the first reading the prophet Zephaniah also calls us to joy when he writes “Shout for joy, O daughter Zion! Be glad and exult with all your heart. Sing joyfully, O Israel!” How can one experience this joy in the midst of the struggles that touch all our lives? How can we rejoice in the face of the sufferings that mar our world, with its war, poverty and injustice? I’d like to suggest that the answer lies in the paradox at the heart of the most familiar of our Advent hymns. Throughout Advent we sing “O come, o come Emmanuel.” Have you ever noticed that this line really is paradoxical? In Hebrew “Emmanuel” meaning “God is with us.” And yet we pray, “Come!” What is with us is not with us, and still has to come. Advent joy is just same. It is already given to us, but we long for a joy that is not here yet.

Monday December 12<sup>th</sup> is the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Devotion to our Lady of Guadalupe celebrates our humanity, our dignity as human beings, and demands the justice which honors the dignity and worth of every human person, with particular attention to those who are poor and suffering. The image of Our Lady of Guadalupe is often carried in procession as a demonstration of faith and symbol for justice as willed by God. The proclamation of the Gospel, the mission of evangelization, is a call for justice. To honor Our Lady of Guadalupe is to stand right with God; to honor Our Lady of Guadalupe is to respect the dignity and worth of every human being as made in the image of God and redeemed by Jesus Christ. Please join us in honoring this woman of faith, with a Holy Mass at 8:30am in English and 7:00pm for Bilingual on Monday.

In faith we ponder in our hearts all the great things God has done for us, all the great gifts God has given us, especially the treasure of Mary, whom we honor under the title of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

!VIVA LA VIRGEN DE GAUDALUPE!

Have a Blessed weekend.

Fr. Jude Uche, MSP.

### 3er Domingo de Adviento

Este domingo, las lecturas nos dicen dónde buscar la venida del Señor: cuando los ciegos vean, los cojos caminen; cuando los muertos sean levantados a la vida y a los pobres les sean anunciadas buenas noticias. En nuestros días, La presencia del Señor es vista cuando caen los muros de la opresión, cuando enemigos buscan avenidas de compañerismo y confianza, cuando los pobres y las personas sin hogar encuentran cuidados y los olvidados son incluidos. El Reino está entre nosotros  
¿Actuamos como personas del Reino?

### 3rd Sunday of Advent

This Sunday the readings tell us where to look for the Lord’s coming: when the blind see and the lame walk; and when the dead are raised to life and the poor have good news preached to them. In our day the Lord’s presence is seen when walls of oppression fall, when enemies seek avenues of fellowship and trust, when the poor and homeless find care and the forgotten are included. The Kingdom is among us, are we acting as Kingdom people?

**CHURCH CALENDAR**

**SUNDAY DECEMBER 11**  
2nd Collection Retired Clergy & Religious

10 am First Reconciliation Class  
1-4 pm Confirmation Class

**MONDAY DECEMBER 12**  
5 am Mariachis to Our Lady of Guadalupe

6 am Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass  
7 am Matachines & Breakfast  
7 pm Bilingual Mass

**TUESDAY DECEMBER 13**  
5 PM Fr. Jude meeting with the Bishop  
6 pm TNMC

**WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 14**  
5:30-8 pm Faith Formation  
7 pm Adoration  
No Faith Formation

**THURSDAY DECEMBER 15**  
6 pm Christmas Dinner (SSWS Sponsored) Inn of Salado

**FRIDAY DECEMBER 16**  
7 pm Grupo de Oracion

**SATURDAY DECEMBER 17**  
10 am Mark E Villafranco  
1-6 Confirmation Class

**SUNDAY DECEMBER 18**  
10 am First Reconciliation Class  
1-4 Confirmation Class

**OUR LADY OF  
GUADALUPE  
CELEBRATION**

Please come and join us  
as we celebrate the day  
of  
Our Lady of  
Guadalupe on

**Monday  
December 12**

Mañanitas at 5 am  
Mass at 6 am  
Matachines & Breakfast at 7 am



**Christmas Mass Schedule**

**Saturday, December 24**  
5:30 pm

12:00 am Midnight

**Sunday, December 25**

9:00am Spanish 11:00 am English

**Monetary Stewardship**

Collection Last Week:

**Regular: \$4,270.00**  
**Online: \$ 663.46**  
**Total \$ 4,933.46**

**Building Fund Collection**  
**\$ 4,752.00**

*... remembering the words of  
the Lord who said, It is more  
blessed to give than to receive  
(Acts 20:35).*

***Building for Our Lord  
Campaign***  
***Construyendo Para Nuestro  
Senor***

Total Pledge To Date:  
**\$1,421,876.00**

Amount Collected To Date:  
**\$810,000.00**

Pledges to be Redeemed:  
**\$526,020.00**

Paid Diocese Months of December  
**\$30,000.00**

Loan Balance to Date:  
**\$561,294.44**

Original Loan Total  
**\$800,000.00**

**St. Stephen  
Women's Society**

SSWS Sponsored  
**Christmas Dinner** on  
December 15 at the Inn of  
Salado \$20 per person. It is  
an opportunity to sit down  
and enjoy food, fellowship  
music in a Christmas  
atmosphere.

**Mass Intentions**

Sat.	Dec 10	5:30 pm	Clarence Emtrop +
Sun.	Dec 11	9:00 am	Janice Piatek +
		11:00 am	Guadalupe Loma (Birthday)
Mon.	Dec 12	6:00 am	Our Lady of Guadalupe
Tues.	Dec 13	6:00 pm	Virgil Lucas +
Wed.	Dec 14	8:30 am	Stewart Smith +
Thurs	Dec 15	8:30 am	Jerry Soto +
Fri	Dec 16	12:00 pm	Rodolfo Morales+
Sat	Dec 17	5:30 pm	Roy Stermer+
Sun	Dec 18	9:00 am	Nicholas Pritchett
		11:00 am	Zoe Villa Rios +

**Ministry Schedule for December 17-18 2016**

Mass	Lector	Altar Servers	Ushers / Greeters	Ministers of Eucharist
5:30 PM	A Alcozar T Alcozar	M Markham E Markham	B Johnson U Okwar B Watts	Deacon Ernie Jennifer M P Watson T Schatte Romayne S
9:00 AM	M Cross A Dworaczyk	Mary G.G. Cassidy B. M Cross Isabella D.	T Buckley D Broecker P Broecker	Deacon Ernie D Alvarez L Simonette Robert M D Roberts
11:00 AM	I Ortiz B Martinez	K Ramirez V Medrano C Ortiz I Ivette A Chavez M Cortes	Modesto J Hernandez  Rogelio M	E de la Hoya Modesto B Jaramillo Carmen T M Perez



***Adoration***

**Wednesday, December 14 at 7:00 pm**

*Please join us as we prepare our hearts for the birth of Jesus  
Christ at Christmas*

**Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God  
Saturday, December 31**

5:30 pm

**Sunday January 1**

9:00 am English

11:00 am Spanish



**RESPECT FOR LIFE**



Stop by the Respect for Life table each mass.  
As we prepare for the birth of Jesus, let us  
remember the Serene Attention to God's  
Creation.

**Faith Formation**

**No Classes December 21 & 28  
Christmas Holiday**

